

DDI-335872

American Embassy, Moscow
December 1, 1972

The Honorable Earl L. Butz
The Secretary of Agriculture
Washington, D. C. 20250

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Our Congressional Delegation has been examining the Soviet agricultural situation during our visit to Moscow with a view toward improving our basis for estimating future Soviet agricultural output and ultimately the potential imports of American agricultural commodities. Although the fundamental problem lies in the restrictive nature of the Soviet system -- both in terms of withholding information and in limiting travel of American Embassy personnel -- there are some improvements we may make in our effort. Specifically, your Office of the Agricultural Attache in the United States Embassy in Moscow might be able to improve its effectiveness if the following steps were taken:

1. Expansion of the present staff of two Agricultural Attaches to at least three as soon as possible. In addition, an Assistant Attache should be assigned to the new Commercial Office when it is opened, to facilitate agricultural market development. If requirements on your Attache continue to multiply, plans for further expansion of the staff should be considered for future years.

2. Addition -- at the earliest date possible -- of a Soviet national with agricultural knowledge to exploit Russian language materials, arrange appointments with Soviet officials, assist official and commercial visitors, and perform numerous other non-professional tasks which now require an inordinate amount of the Attaches' time. If requirements for serving American agricultural commercial interests expand further, more foreign national assistance will be required.

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These suggestions in no way are intended to suggest criticism of your current Attaches. On the contrary, Mr. G. Stanley Brown, as the Control Officer of our delegation, has been more than helpful. Indeed it is clear that the reporting on recent conditions has been at a consistently high level of quality. Dr. Huth has also been most helpful and informative.

These recommendations are not based on the recent emergency situation in Soviet wheat requirements. They represent a prudent assessment of needs based on present and future requirements. Prompt action is suggested.

We hope we might have the privilege of discussing this and other matters with you when we return.

Sincerely,

Hubert H. Humphrey
United States Senator

Henry Bellmon
United States Senator

Henry S. Reuss
United States Representative

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Additional pressures brought to bear on improving information retrieval and Soviet crop estimates.											
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